



Fatima Is Fatima

Ali Shariati , Laleh Bakhtiar (Translator)

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Fatima Is Fatima Details

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For a woman, much less a captive, broken woman, to challenge the ruler in his own court on moral and scriptural grounds for the imposed war, to denounce him for inflicting atrocities on innocent people living peacefully, for having killed with impunity, elders as old as 80 years and infants as young as 6 months, which according to Islamic laws of war is verboten, and for treating women and children with indignity and disrespect, was unheard of in Arabia. Her impromptu speeches and devastating elegiacs in verse caused a disquiet in the Damascene ranks so that she had to be taken away and silenced for fear of fomenting rebellion among the commoners assembled at the court.

I digress, but this is to give a glimpse of the fighting spirit Islam had injected into the common consciousness of women through its leading female religious figures. Although Islam did not challenge or dismiss the tribal patriarchal culture of the time, given the impossibility of instituting any other type of system in that time and place, it nonetheless laid down a barrier encoded in law that ensured the rights of women and gave them the impetus to fight if their God-given rights were suppressed or taken away: rights such as of inheritance, equality and allowance in law where hitherto none existed, the right to bear witness in law courts, the right to choose their spouses, to own and manage their own wealth and property - all the rights having to do with the maximum social position women could aspire to in tribal medieval Arabia, minus the right to become community leaders, which to this day causes controversy among the conservative and progressive camps.

I read the book way back in Urdu translation and read it recently in English (the original is in Farsi or Persian). It was nice to find out that I had retained a lot of it, probably because I'd read it during my early formative years and remember this having a lasting impact on my future readings.

September '15.

Ferina says

...

"Mary is Jesus' mother."

and I tried to tell about 'Fateme' in this way. but I couldn't:

I wanted to say: Fateme is Great Khadijeh's daughter.

But I realized this was not what she is.

Wanted to say: Fateme is the daughter of Great Muhammad.

But this was not Fateme.

Wanted to say: Fateme is Ali's wife.

But this was not Fateme.

Wanted to say: Fateme is the mother of Hasan&Hossein.

But this was not Fateme.

Wanted to say: Fateme is the mother of Zeineb.

But this was not Fateme either,

No, these all are, but are not what Fateme is.

"Fateme is Fateme"

(I translated the text from persian myself, sorry if it lacks in skill a bit!;)

????? ???? says

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Negar Ghadimi says

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Ahmad Al-eskafi says

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